

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203886 TOSEC 100220

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET

SUBJECT: DEATH OF HAILE SELASSIE OF ETHIOPIA

1. ADDIS ABABA DOMESTIC SERVICE ANNOUNCED 11 GMT AUGUST 27
DEATH OF HAILE SELASSIE ON MORNING OF AUGUST 27 AS RESULT
OF ILLNESS AFFECTING PROSTATE GLAND. DEPARTMENT HAS NOT
REPEAT NOT RECEIVED ANY CONFIRMATION OF REPORT, BUT ASSUMES
IT IS CORRECT.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE IS ISSUING THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
TODAY: IT IS WITH THE DEEPEST REGRET THAT WE HAVE LEARNED
OF THE DEATH OF EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE. FOR FIVE DECADES
HE WAS A TOWERING LEADER NOT ONLY OF HIS OWN COUNTRY BUT OF

THE ENTIRE AFRICAN CONTINENT. AT THE TIME OF THE INVASION
OF HIS COUNTRY, HE WAS AN INSPIRATION TO EVERYONE AROUND
THE WORLD WHO BELIEVES IN NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND PEACE
WITH FREEDOM AMONG NATIONS. AS A FRIEND OF THIS COUNTRY
AND AS A SYMBOL OF AFRICAN EMERGENCE, HE WILL BE GREATLY
MISSED. BUT HIS ACHIEVEMENTS -- PEACEFUL COOPERATION AMONG
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AFRICAN STATES AND BETWEEN AFRICAN STATES AND THE REST OF

THE WORLD -- WILL LIVE ON AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE FULLEST AMERICAN SUPPORT.

3. IN THE EVENT THAT YOU WANT TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL STATEMENT, THE FOLLOWING TEXT MAY BE USEFUL TO YOU:

QUOTE I WAS DEEPLY GRIEVED TO HEAR OF THE DEATH OF HAILE SELASSIE. HE WILL LIVE IN HISTORY AS A SYMBOL OF AFRICAN DIGNITY AND OF THE REFUSAL OF A WEAK COUNTRY TO SUCCUMB TO EXTERNAL AGGRESSION. HISTORY WILL RECORD HIS UNTIRING EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE AND FOR PEACE ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IS HIS MONUMENT. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE THEIR STEADFAST

SUPPORT TO THE IDEALS TO WHICH HE WAS DEDICATED FOR NEARLY A HALF CENTURY. UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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